BLACKOUT

KARAKURI

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

5

DELCOURT

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

KARAKURI CIRCUS TOME 5 INDEX

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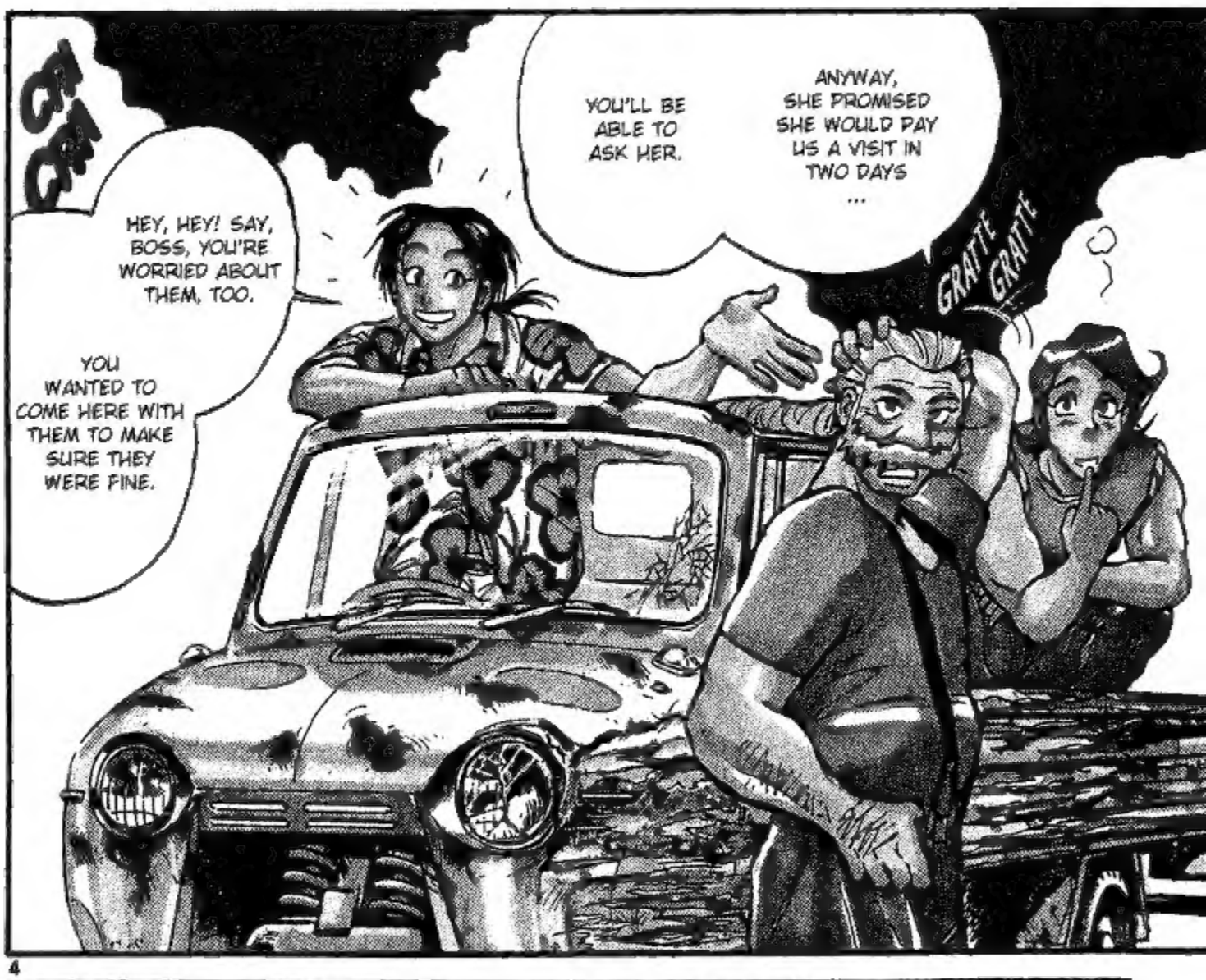
ACT II : CIRCUS • DEPARTURE
CHAPTER EIGHT "MASARU'S DECISION"

AS USUAL, SHIROGANE'S THE SAME ...
IT'S A PIECE OF JEWELRY! PURE CRYSTAL, AND HANDMADE!
MASTER, I TOOK A GLASS FOR YOU! YOU MUST USE IT EXCLUSIVELY!

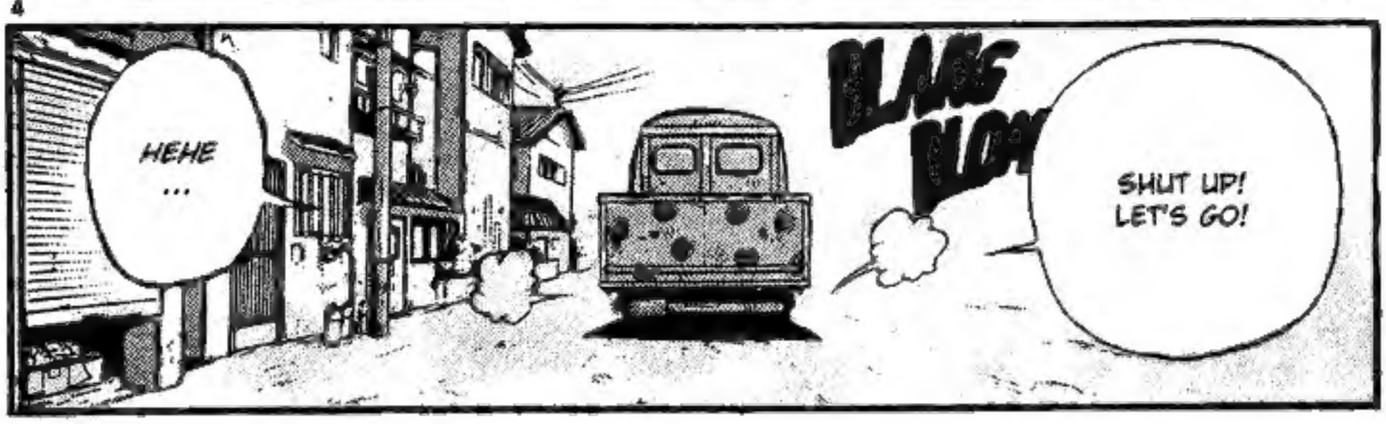
AS WE'RE IN SUMMER, YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOUTH'S HEALTH TO PREVENT THE BACTERIAS' PROLIFERATION...
SHIROGANE... DO YOU KNOW MANY CHILDREN OF MY AGE WHO GARGLE IN A CRYSTAL GLASS ?

ACT II : CIRCUS * DEPARTURE -
CHAPTER EIGHT: "MASARU'S DECISION"

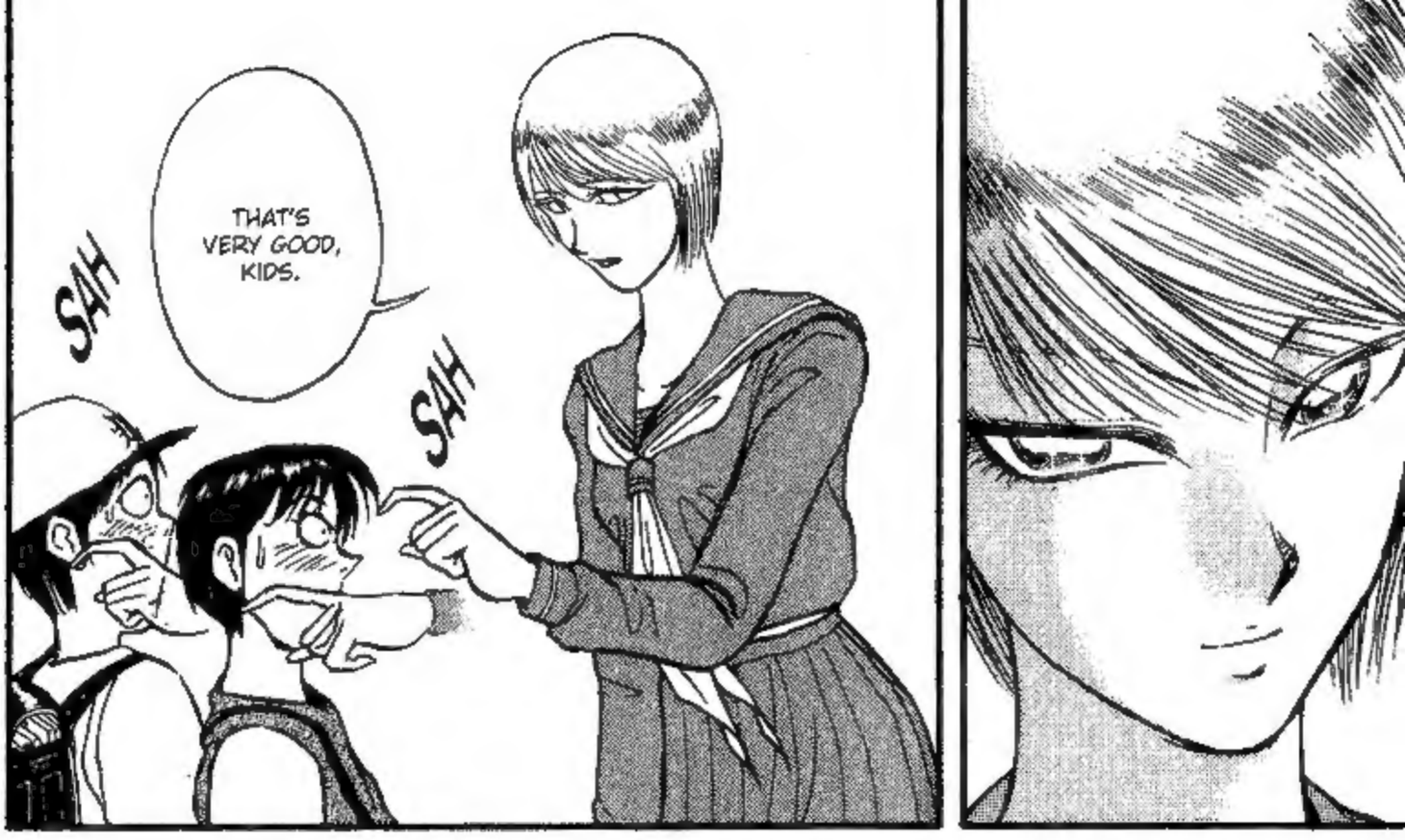
SHE CAN'T BE HIS SISTER ...
WHY DOES SHE REMAIN STUCK WITH THAT BOY ALL THE TIME?
CRII! CRII!
WOW... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!

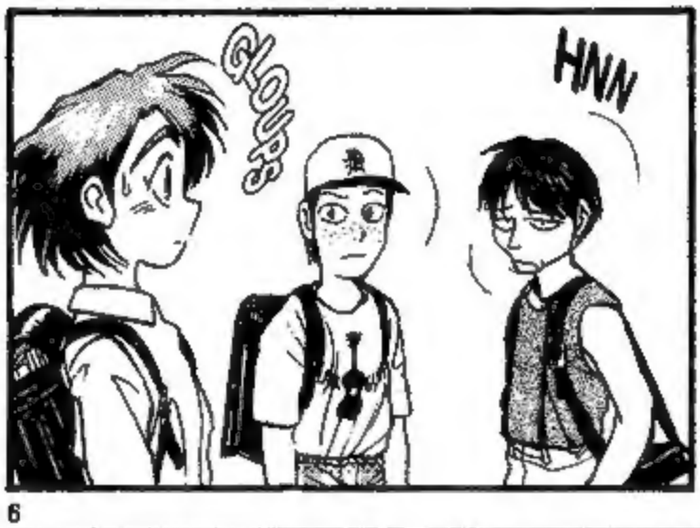

CRII CRII
HEY, HEY! SAY, BOSS, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THEM, TOO.
YOU WANTED TO COME HERE WITH THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE FINE.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ASK HER.
ANYWAY, SHE PROMISED SHE WOULD PAY US A VISIT IN TWO DAYS ...
GRATTE GRATTE

4


HEHE ...
BLANG BLOH
SHUT UP! LET'S GO!

HA...
THANK YOU, SHIROGANE.
HAVE A NICE DAY, SIR.
LISTEN ...
ABOUT THOSE KNIVES ...
KRLOM
KRLOM
WE WON'T USE THEM ANYMORE!
WE THREW THEM AWAY ...


SAH
THAT'S VERY GOOD, KIDS.
SAH

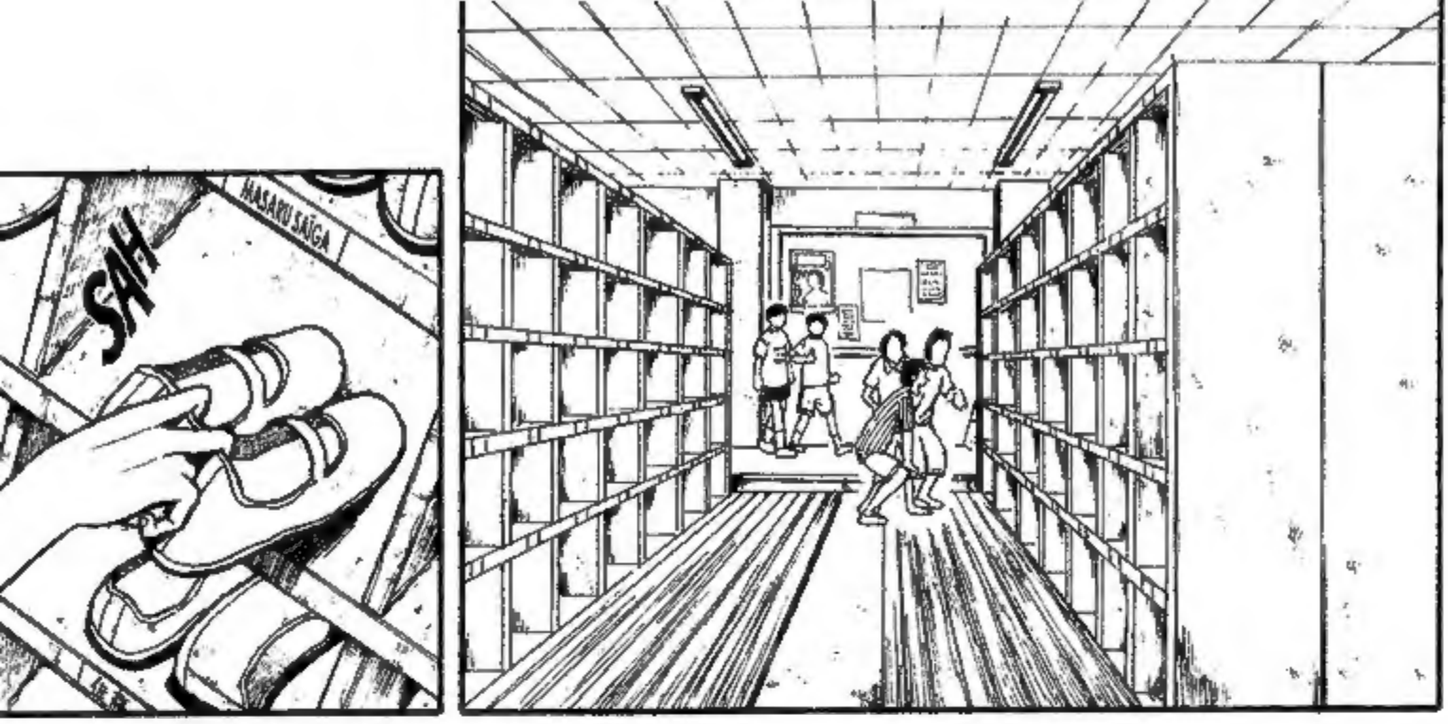

GLOUP
HNN

HOOOO

OKAY!

WE'RE SORRY ...

HM...


SAH!
MASAYU SAIGA

BUT... THESE ARE MY SHOES!

LET'S THROW THEM IN THE TRASH-CAN AND THEN DIRECTLY IN THE INCINERATOR!
WE'RE GONNA SHUT HIS BIG MOUTH UP ONCE AND FOR ALL!
WHERE ARE WE GONNA HIDE THEM TODAY ?!

OUCH! ... WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, ATSUSHI, ARE YOU CRAZY ?!

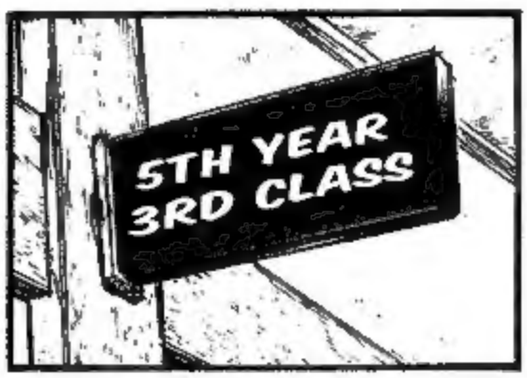
BAD!
DOOM

BAAN

NO... I WAS KIDDING ...
GRR RR

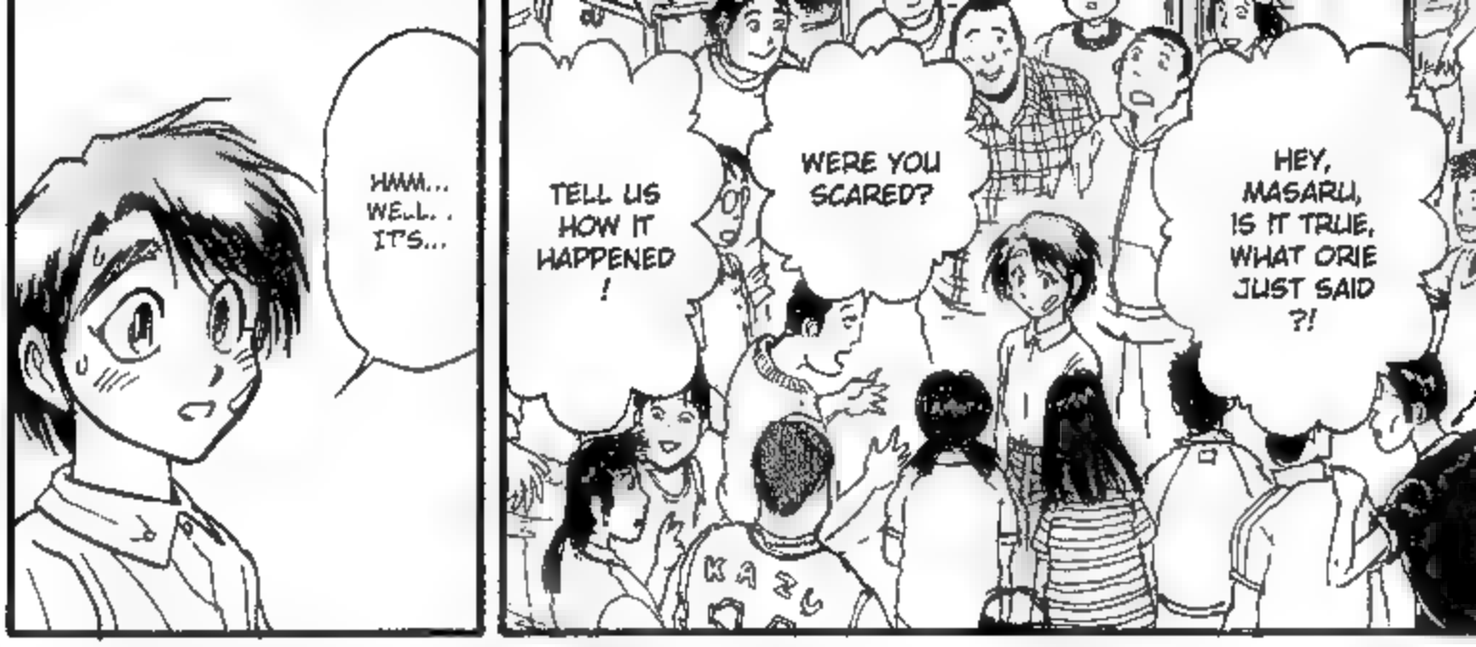
HMPF
HM... THANK YOU VERY MUCH, ATSUSHI ...

HE RAN AND TOOK THE GLOVES !!
ZZZA
ANN

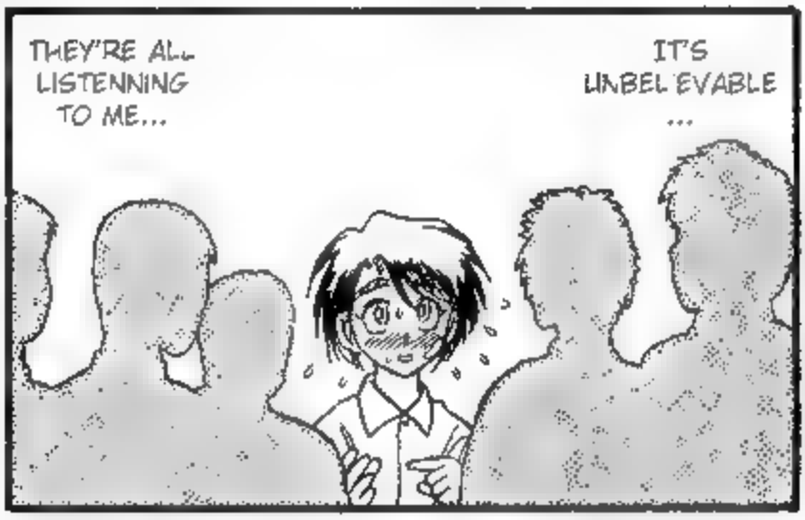

5TH YEAR 3RD CLASS

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THIS! HE GOT HIT EVERYWHERE, BUT HE WAS NOT EVEN SCARED!

...IN THE PAPERS. THEY DIDN'T MENTION ANY ROBOT!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE OVERTHINKING IT A LITTLE BIT? I HEARD ABOUT THAT STORY...
HE BLEW THEM AWAY! THAT WAS AWESOME!
RRLAN
THE BIG ROBOT STARTED TO MOVE, AND THEN HE KICKED ALL THE GANGSTERS!
YES... EVERYTHING.
ATSUSHI! EVERY-THING I SAID WAS TRUE, WASN'T IT?
CROSS
IDIOTS! I WAS THERE WITH HIM!! I SAW EVERY-THING!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE SAYING THAT MASARU WAS BRAVE?!
PLANET OF THE APES
HI!
HA HAA! I TOLD YOU!! AND THEN...
CROSS
DOH
HI...
SBOMF


HMM... WE.L.. IT'S...
TELL US HOW IT HAPPENED !
WERE YOU SCARED?
HEY, MASARU, IS IT TRUE, WHAT ORIE JUST SAID ?!
KAZU

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM!

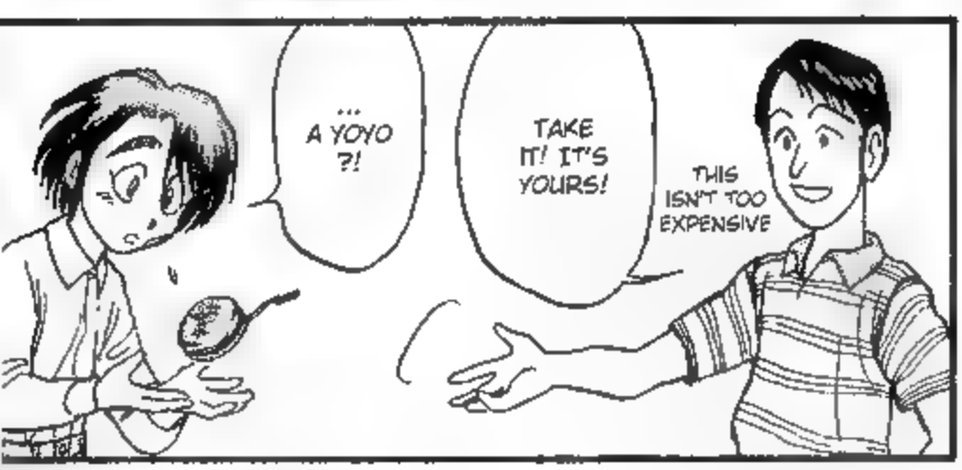

THEY'RE ALL LISTENNING TO ME...
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE ...

IF YOU KNOW HOW TO MANIPULATE ROBOTS, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM THROWING A BALL!
REALLY?! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME!
MASARU! FOR TODAY'S GAME, YOU'LL BE OUR PITCHER !

HOW DARE YOU ?!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, ORIE! I WANT TO HEAR MASARU TELL US THE STORY HIMSELF!
HM, ME?
HEY, MASARU, I HAVE SOME MORE MARMALADE! DO YOU WANT SOME?
CRDC

DON'T TELL THE TEACHER THAT I'VE GOT THIS IN MY BAG ...
BUT HERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ..
YOU'RE RICH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY COOL TOYS!

I'M VERY SORRY . BUT I NEVER WATCH TV ..
NOT EVEN POKEMON!
HEY, MASARU! YOU DON'T WATCH ANY-THING!


... A YOYO ?!
TAKE IT! IT'S YOURS!
THIS ISN'T TOO EXPENSIVE

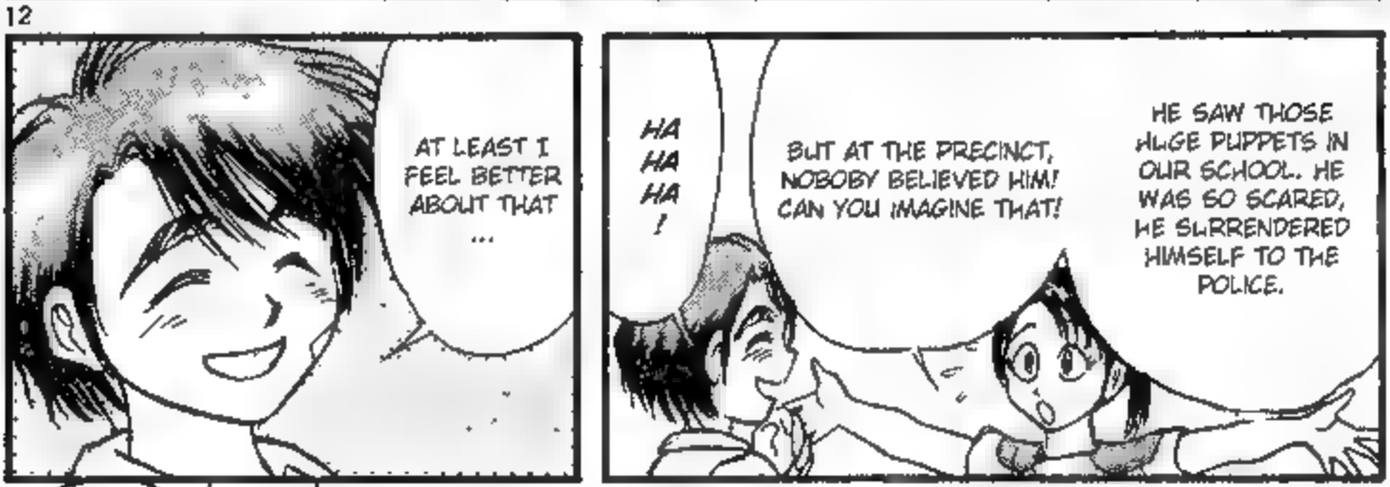
HO
P!

SPAF
MASARU, ARE YOU COMING WITH ME ?
CROSS

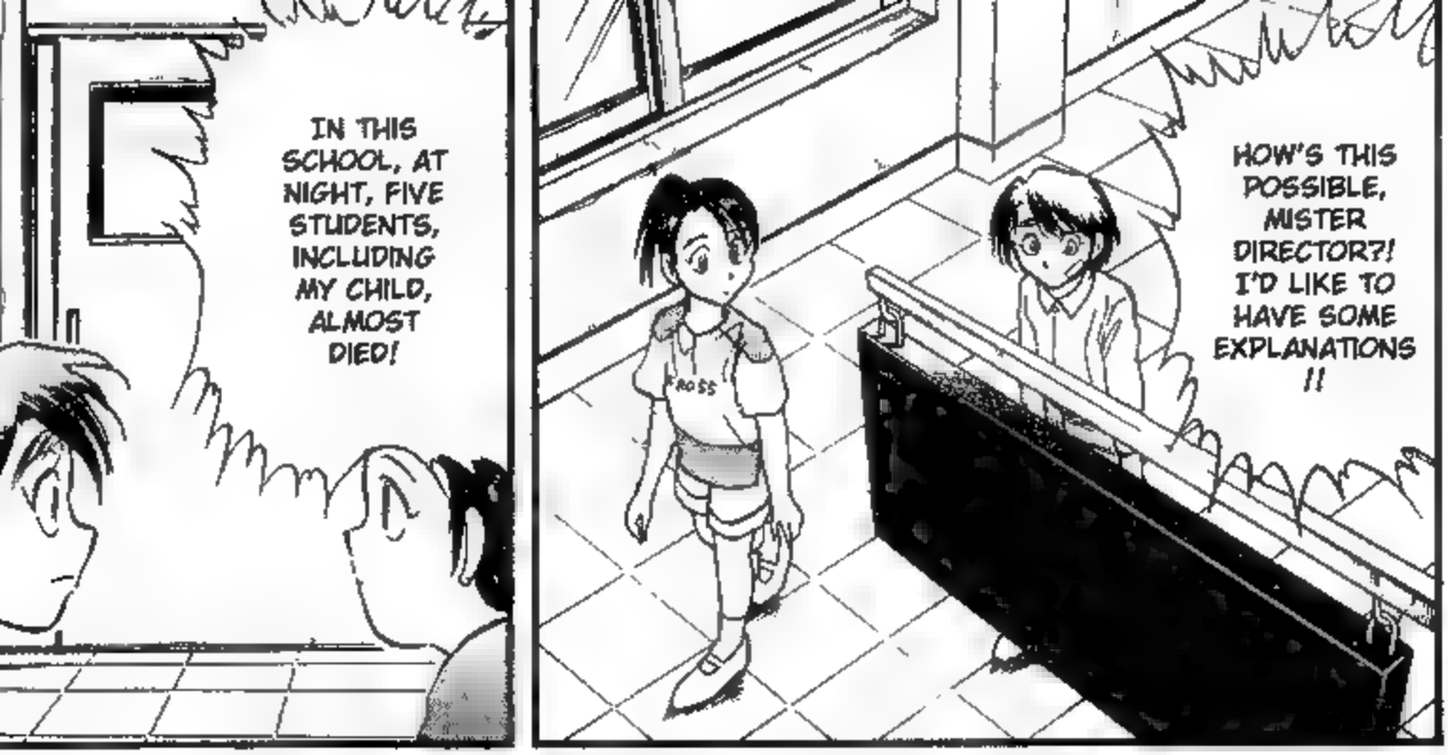
YOU KNOW ABOUT IT? IT'S REALLY IN!
ZOING

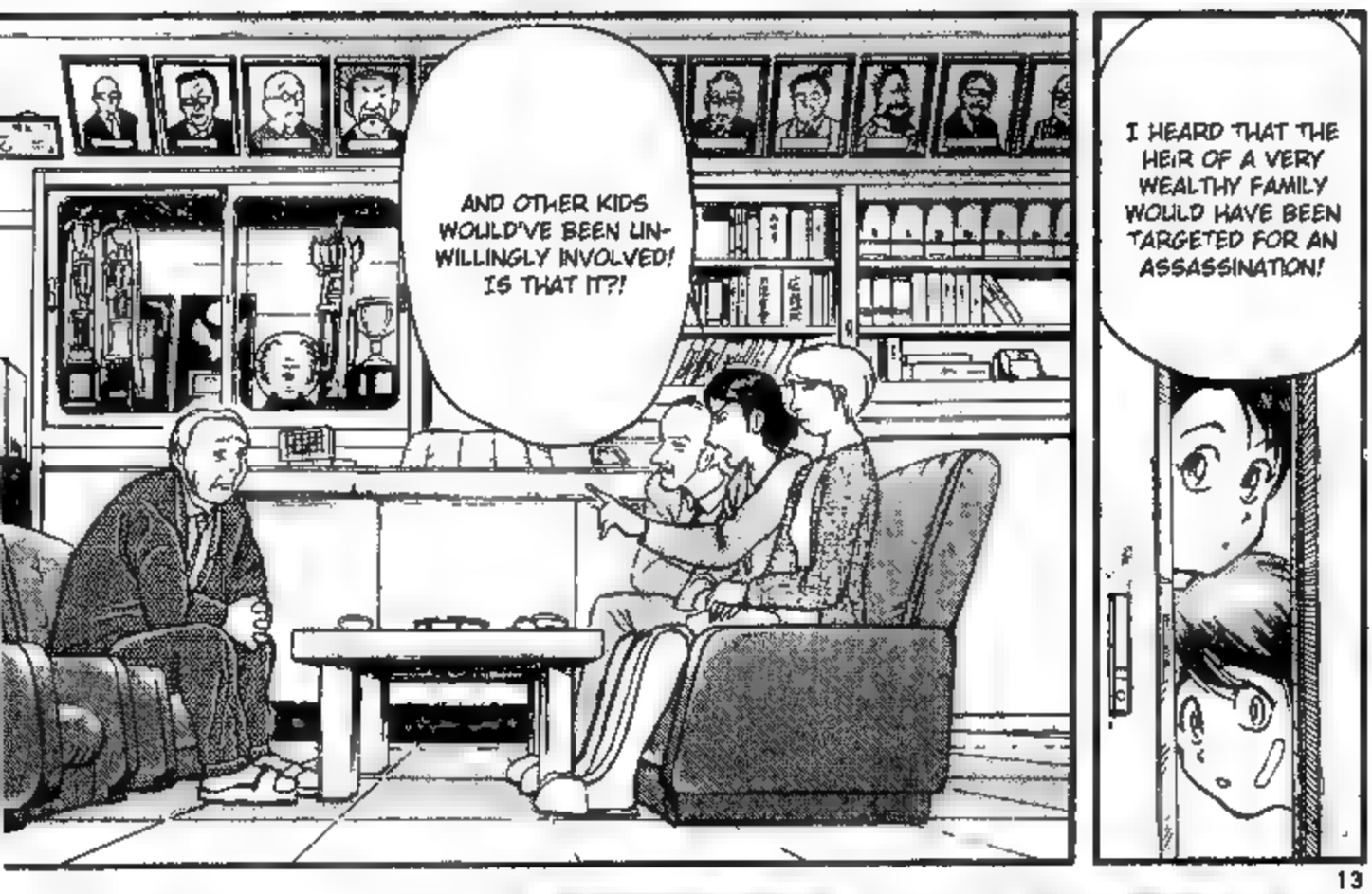
MASARU!
THANK YOU ... THANK YOU VERY MUCH !
HIHIHI
STOP IT, GIRLS !!
HEY ORIE.. YOU AND MASARU ARE BECOMING SUCH A NICE COUPLE

YES. APPARENTLY, A STUDENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL WHO LIVE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS SNEAKING IN THE SCHOOLS AT NIGHT WITH HIS DOG. AND THE OTHER NIGHT ..
REALLY? IS THAT TRUE?
DID YOU HEAR? IT SEEMS THAT THE RABBITS' CASE GOT SOLVED.


AT LEAST I FEEL BETTER ABOUT THAT ...
HA HA HA !
BUT AT THE PRECINCT, NOBOBY BELIEVED HIM! CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT!
HE SAW THOSE HUGE PUPPETS IN OUR SCHOOL. HE WAS SO SCARED, HE SURRENDERED HIMSELF TO THE POLICE.

NO... THE THING IS, HIS MOTHER'S A MEMBER OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION, AND...
MAYBE HE'S SICK ...
HE HASN'T COME BACK TO SCHOOL SINCE THE OTHER NIGHT.
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS KAZUO ?

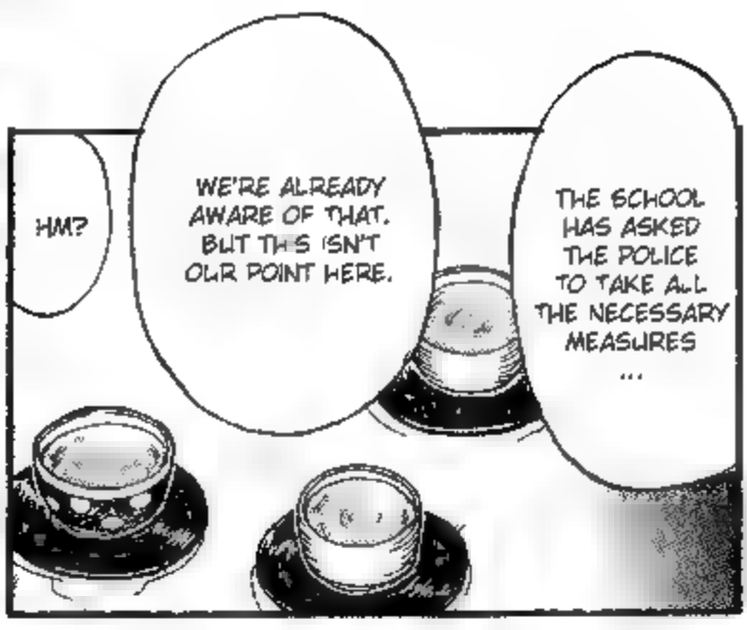

IN THIS SCHOOL, AT NIGHT, FIVE STUDENTS, INCLUDING MY CHILD, ALMOST DIED!
HOW'S THIS POSSIBLE, MISTER DIRECTOR?! I'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME EXPLANATIONS !!

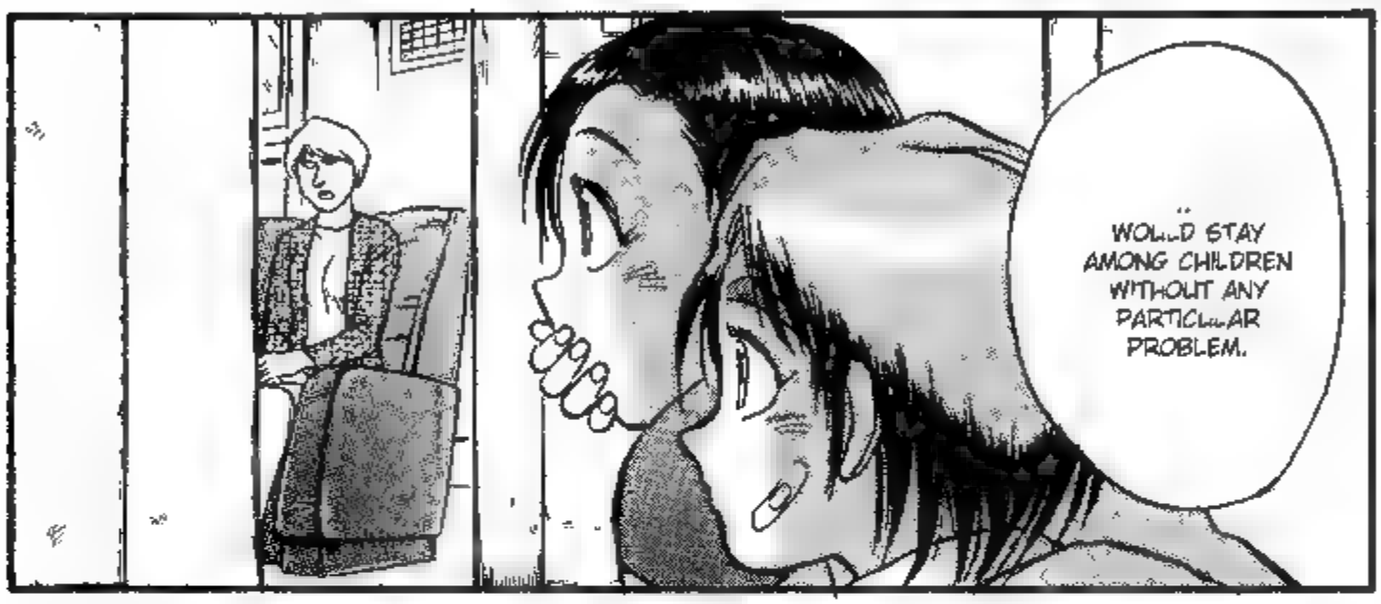

AND OTHER KIDS WOULD'VE BEEN UN-WILLINGLY INVOLVED! IS THAT IT?!
I HEARD THAT THE HEIR OF A VERY WEALTHY FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR AN ASSASSINATION!

.. I CAN'T LET THAT GO, CAN I ?
AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ...

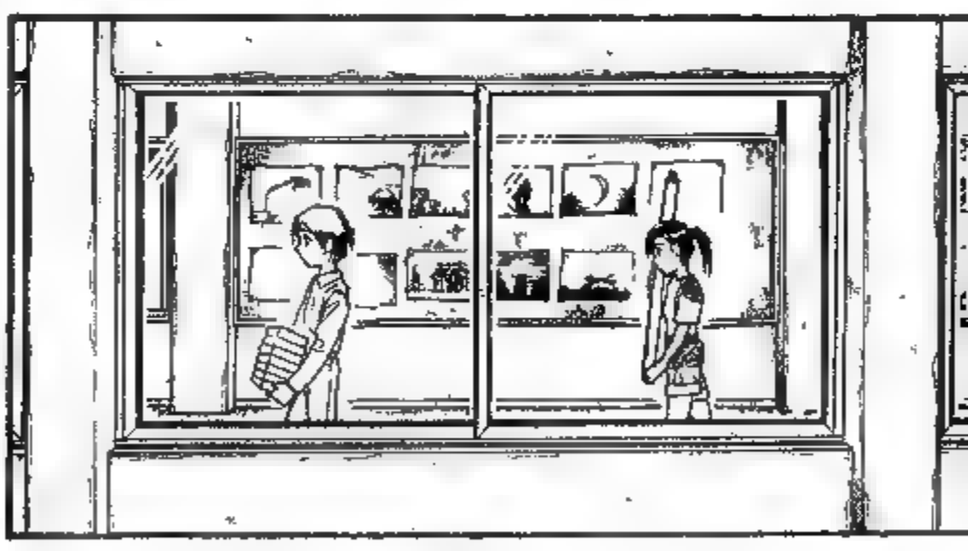
YES, MISS TAKEUCHI ...

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO SAY IS THAT IT IS VERY UNPLEASANT THAT A BOY WAS INVOLVED IN SUCH STRANGE EVENTS...


HM?
WE'RE ALREADY AWARE OF THAT. BUT THIS ISN'T OUR POINT HERE.
THE SCHOOL HAS ASKED THE POLICE TO TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY MEASURES ...

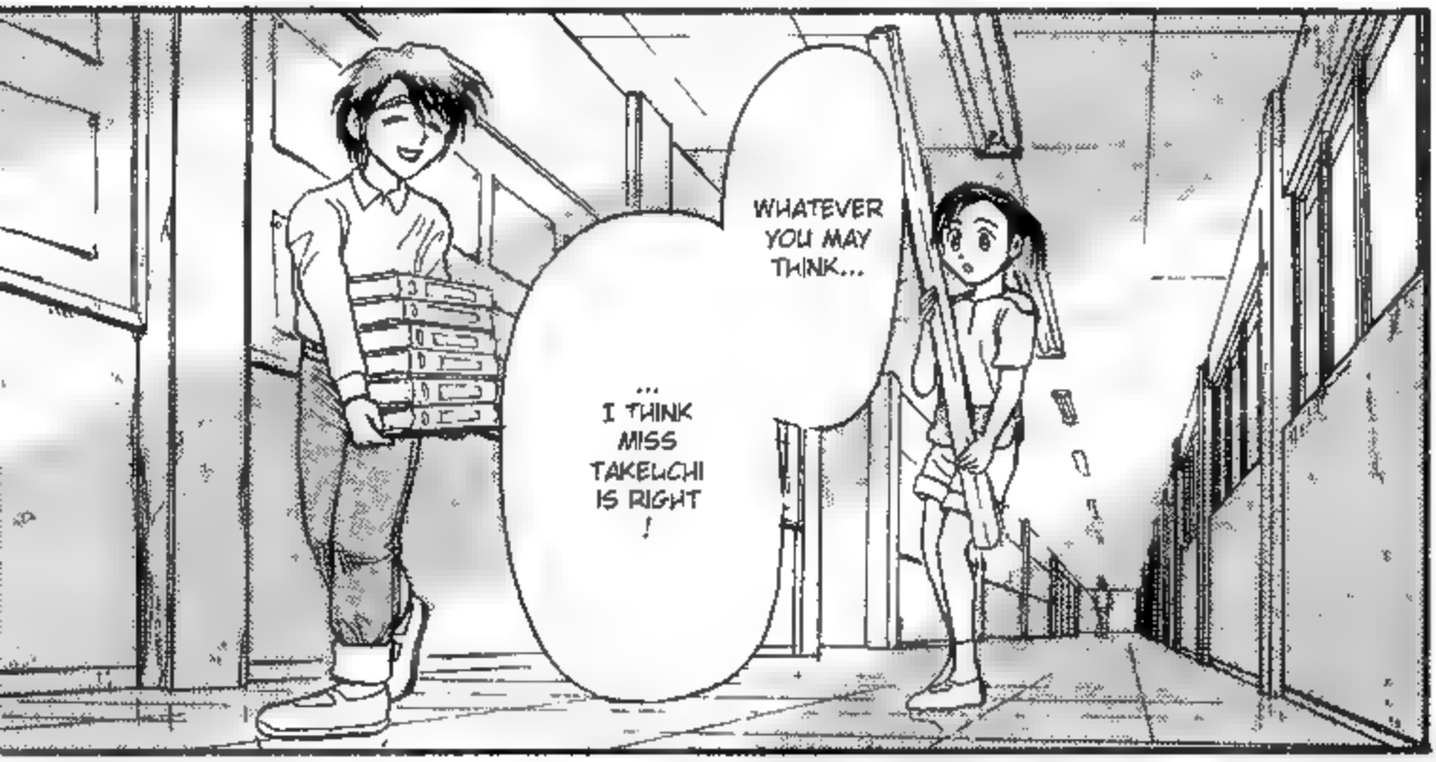

.. WOULD STAY AMONG CHILDREN WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

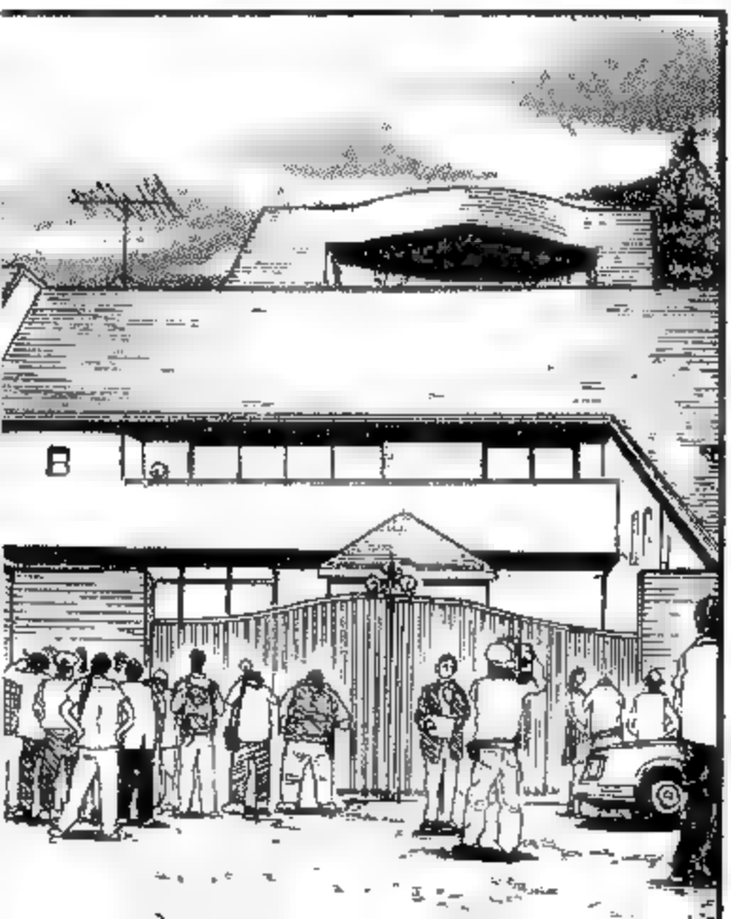
COME ON .. DON'T WORRY, MASARU



YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO SAVE US!
BUT I KNOW THAT YOU SAVED US!
MY MOTHER ALSO SAYS THOSE KINDS OF THINGS ..

STOP IT! I'M TELLING YOU, IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
ORIE... I'M REALLY SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, ATSUSHI, AND THE OTHERS.


WHATEVER YOU MAY THINK...
... I THINK MISS TAKEUCHI IS RIGHT !

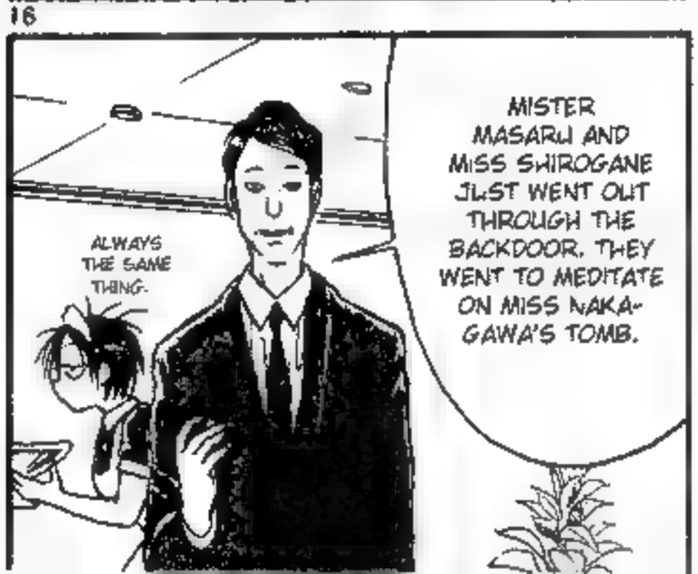

B

HEY, MASARU! WAIT FOR ME!

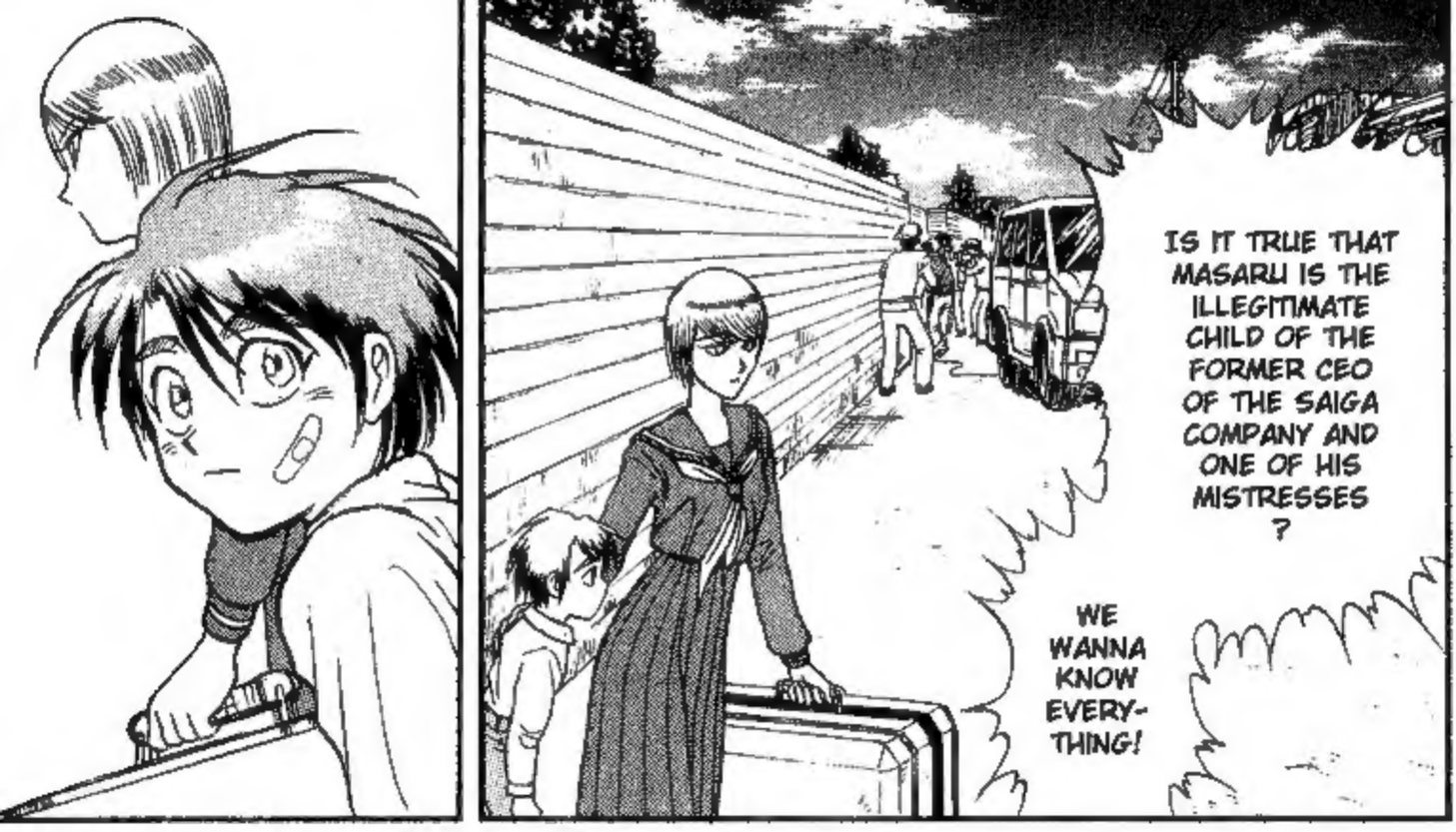
PEOPLE SAY MASARU SAIGA WAS KIDNAPPED IN ORDER TO STEAL THE HUGE HERITAGE HE GOT AT HIS FATHER'S DEATH. IS THAT TRUE?
DO YOU DENY?
COME ON, ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS!

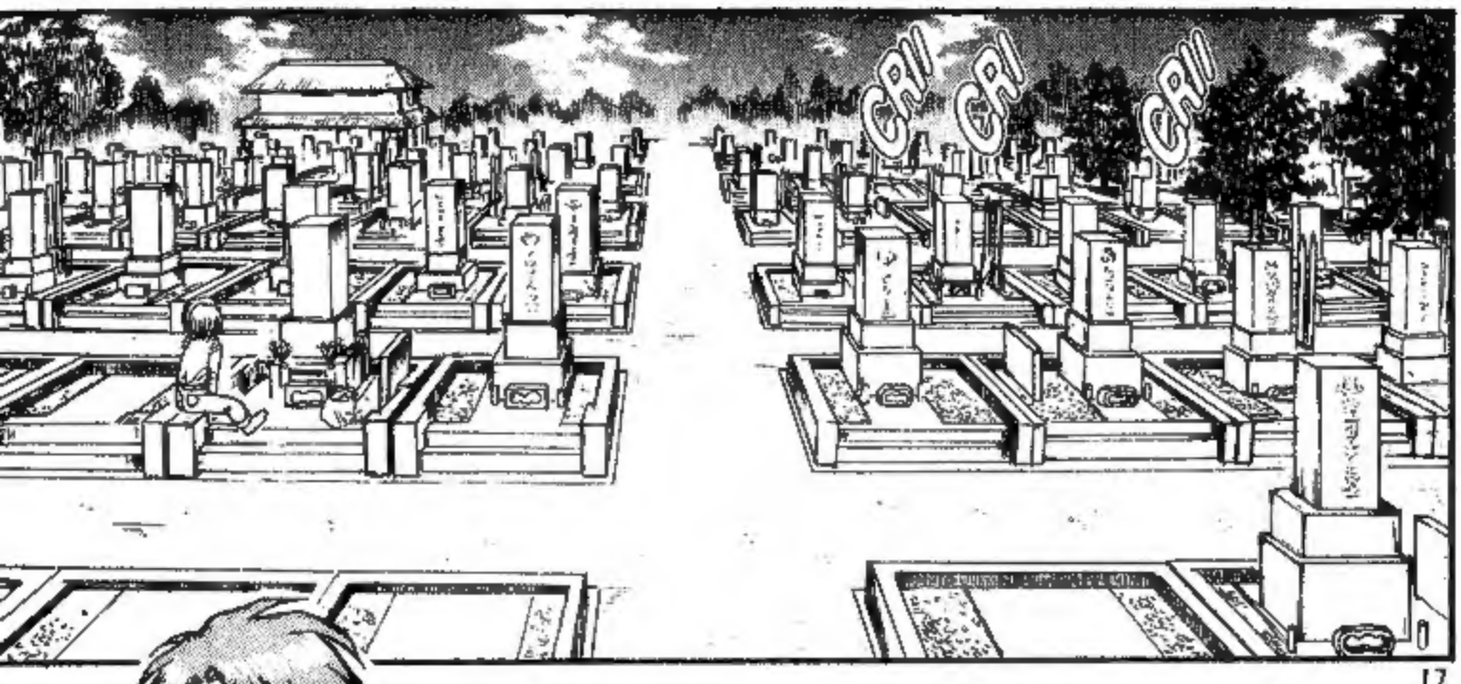
HAAA! THEM AGAIN! ... WHY AM I BEING PERSECUTED ?!
AT LEAST TELL US WHY MISTER SAIGA DECIDED TO ADOPT HIS OWN NEPHEW! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!
SORRY. MISTER ZENJI SAIGA IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP RIGHT NOW. I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS HE?
PLOP
PLOP

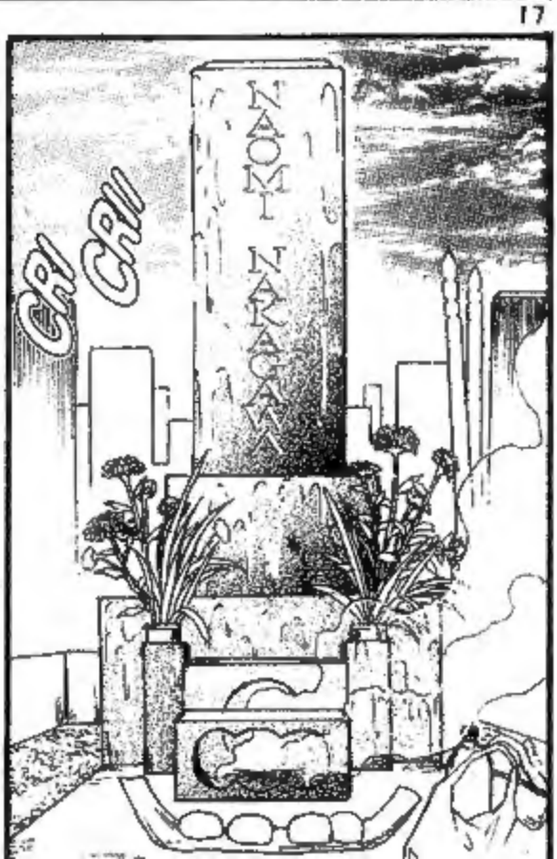

ALWAYS THE SAME THING.
MISTER MASARU AND MISS SHIROGANE JUST WENT OUT THROUGH THE BACKDOOR. THEY WENT TO MEDITATE ON MISS NAKAGAWA'S TOMB.

SIR, YOUR LITTLE STRAWBERRY JELLIES!
IT'S BECAUSE HE AND I ARE STILL RELATED, WHETHER I WANT IT OR NOT!
ALL THIS IS MASARU'S FAULT!!
GAAA
HYAA

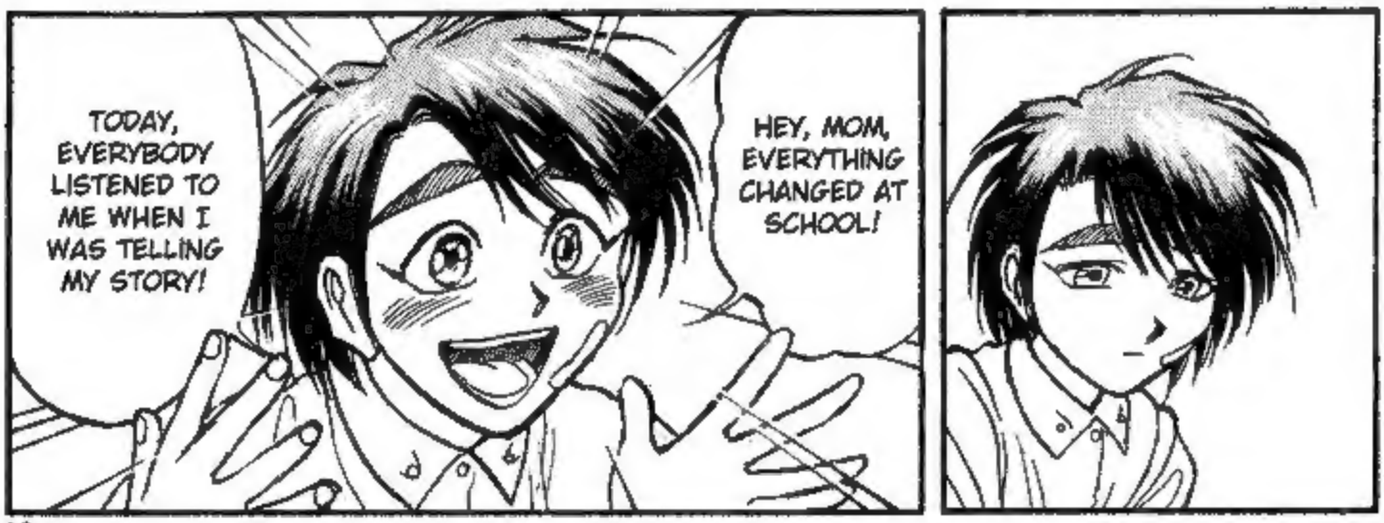

IS IT TRUE THAT MASARU IS THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF THE FORMER CEO OF THE SAIGA COMPANY AND ONE OF HIS MISTRESSES ?
WE WANNA KNOW EVERY-THING!


CRI
CRI
CRI

CRI
DID YOU SEE THAT? IT'S FINISHED!
YOUR NEW TOMB IS BEAUTIFUL, MOM!
YOU DESERVE YOUR OWN HOUSE, TOO!


CRI
CRI
NAOMI NAKAZAWA

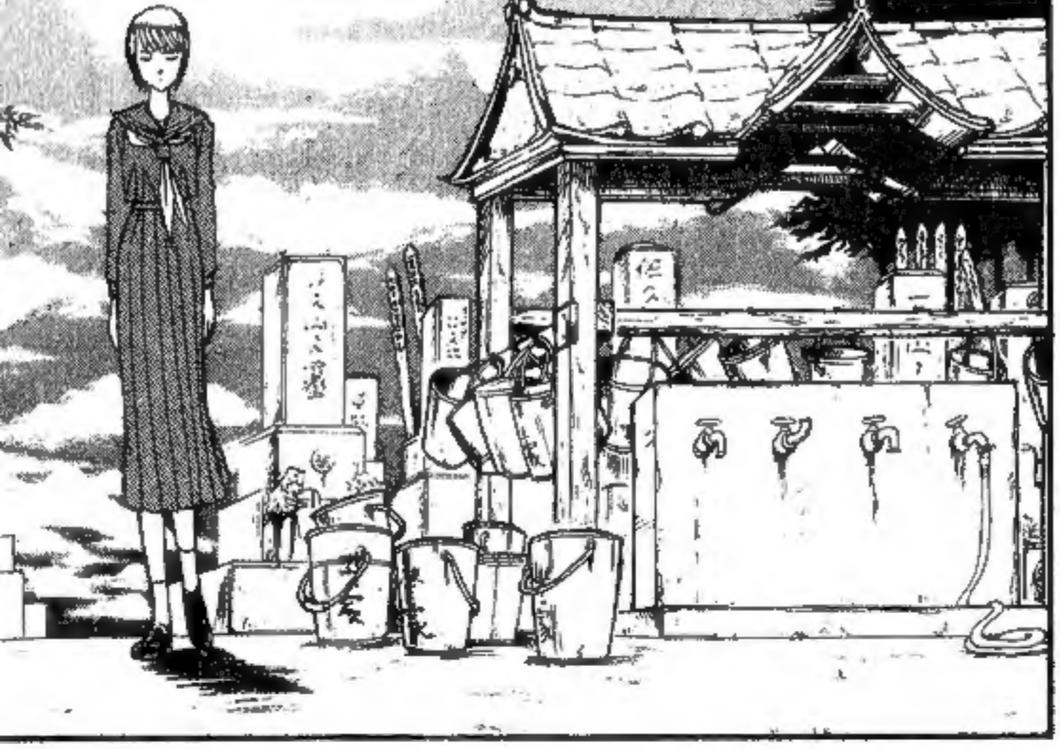
IF I'D KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ...
... AND I DIDN'T KNOW MY FATHER WAS SO RICH.
IN FACT, I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW MUCH IT'D COST ...
... TO BE ABLE TO BUY YOU A BEAUTIFUL TOMB.
THAT'S WHY I ACCEPTED MY FATHER'S HERITAGE ...


TODAY, EVERYBODY LISTENED TO ME WHEN I WAS TELLING MY STORY!
HEY, MOM, EVERYTHING CHANGED AT SCHOOL!

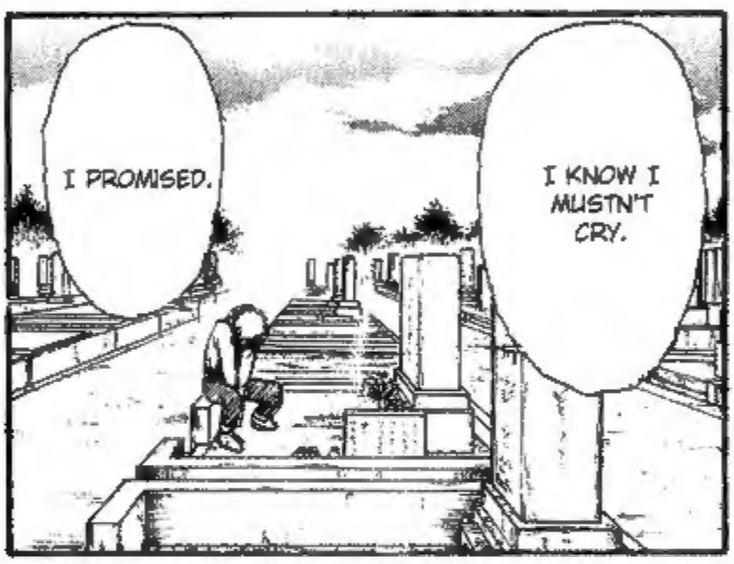
WELL, FOR NOW, I'M STILL A BEGINNER!
WE PLAY LIKE THAT ...

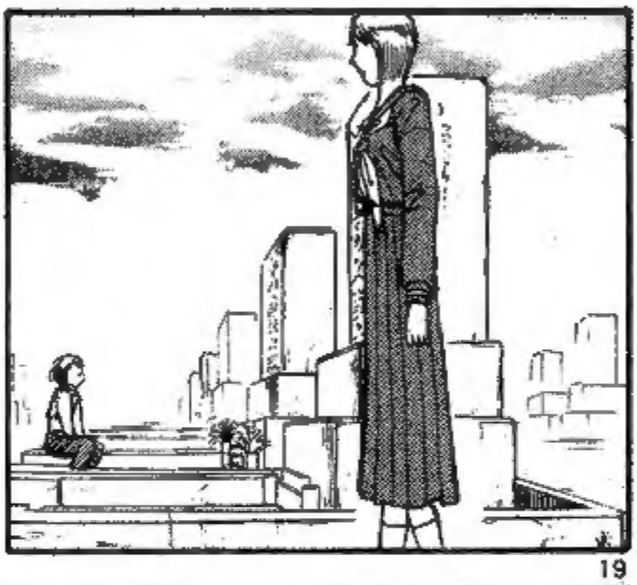
AND THEY CALLED ME BY MY FIRST NAME!
NOBODY'S MEAN TO ME ANYMORE!

A FRIEND GAVE IT TO ME AT SCHOOL!
LOOK, THAT'S A YOYO!
NAOMI NAKAGAWA



BLANG


I PROMISED.
I KNOW I MUSTN'T CRY.



SHIRO-GANE...

...
I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME SOMEWHERE ELSE, TOO.
MOM ...
I FINALLY MANAGED TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS AT SCHOOL. SO...

... SCHOOL, TOO.
NO... I DECIDED TO LEAVE AND TO CHANGE ...

SIR, YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ... ANYMORE ?

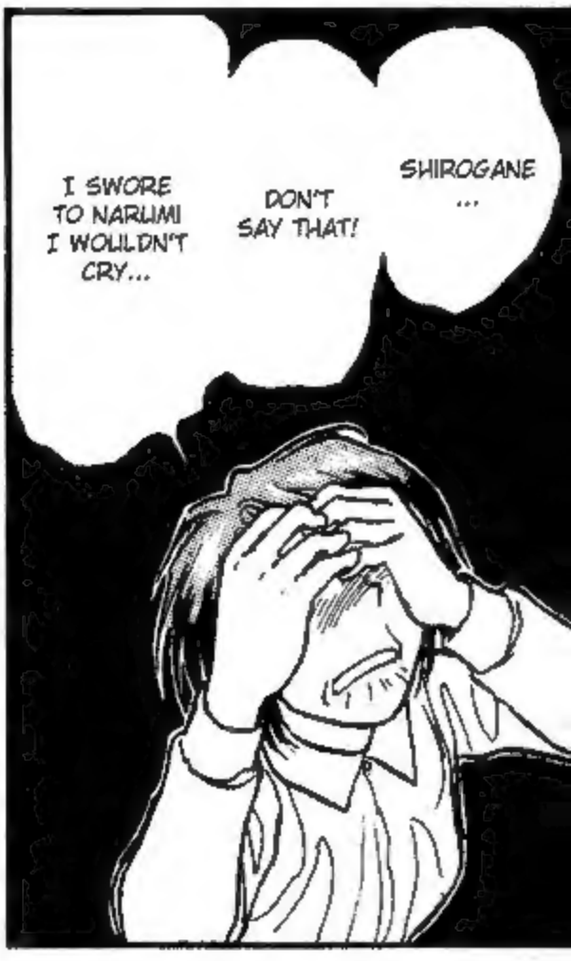
GHH

YOU HAD FINALLY MANAGED TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS.
WHAT A PITY ...

IF I STAY HERE, I'M JEOPARDIZING ALL MY FRIENDS' LIVES.

20

... KEEP MY PROMISE.
AND I WANT TO ...


I SWORE TO NARUMI I WOULDN'T CRY...
DON'T SAY THAT!
SHIROGANE ...